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VIETNAM AFFAIRS STAFF
O/DCI

DATE: 13 Feb 68

TO: Ambassador William Leonhart
Special Assistant to the President

FROM: GACarver, Jr.

SUBJECT:

REMARKS:

On 7 February, a member of my staff did an informal memorandum for me on the effects of the VC Tet offensive on the pacification program, which I sent to you. Attached is an update of that memorandum, done by the same officer, that you may find of interest.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

cc: Mr. Rostow
Secretary McNamara
General DePuy
Governor Harriman
Mr. Habib

UNCLASSIFIED
INFORMATION

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12 February 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Effect of the Viet Cong Tet Offensive on the GVN Pacification Program

REF : Memo dtd 7 Feb 68, same subject

1. The data in this memorandum updates reference memorandum and utilizes all information received from province and corps situation reports received as of 0900 hours EST 12 February 1968.

Summary and Conclusions

2. There is little change in the situation since reference. The map attached to reference should now show Quang Duc Province as probable minor disruption to the RD program, and Kien Phong Province should now reflect major disruption instead of "probable major disruption." To date, casualties reported for all programs (RDC, Truong Son, Static Census Grievance, and PRU) are 56 KIA, 83 WIA, and 37 MIA. VC casualties casualties caused by the RDC or PRU elements are 60 KIA (body count) and 1 captured.

I Corps

3. Quang Nam

A. Hoi An RDC Team #28 located inside the city suffered 3 KIA and 7 WIA when it was hit by 2 VC mortar rounds on the night of 8 - 9 February.

B. On 11 February Quang Nam reported that the pacification program for the moment was at a halt and would be for the next 10 days or so until such items as refugees, transport, communications, and food are dealt with.

4. Quang Ngai reported on 11 February that since 31 January casualties are 2 PRU WIA; 10 RDC KIA, and 30 WIA; 1 SCG KIA; 2 RDC Control Group KIA and 3 WIA.

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5. Quang Tin reported that RDC casualties, as of 11 February, as listed by the National Police are 4 RDC KIA.

6. Quang Tri reported 10 February that refugees number 3,000 primarily from RD areas in Trieu Phong District. At least 3 New Life Hamlets were destroyed. The refugees have stories of VC atrocities. At least 3 VC battalions are in the RAD areas.

II Corps

7. On 9 February II Corps RDC reported that economic dislocations appear to be increasing problems for most provincial capitals, resulting from the influx of refugees and damage to the cities as a result of the military activity. With the major highways and lines of communications to the cities either cut or disrupted, food supplies are dwindling and prices rising. Hoarding of foodstuffs is occurring in some cities where the population is fearful of further attack. 3.3(h)(2)

8. Pleiku reported 8 February that the Montagnard Training Center was attacked at 0010 hours. The attack lasted three hours. Three guards were killed and two wounded. Ten local VC sappers were killed, 1 crew served and 5 individual weapons captured along with ammunition, grenades and mines. Heavy damage was inflicted by the VC on the farm demonstration area, the farm classroom and barber shop were demolished. There was some damage caused by friendly rounds and supporting gunships. The southeast tower bunker was demolished and guards' barracks damaged by B-40 rounds. The camp security force performance was exemplary.

9. Quang Duc reported 10 February that the RDC and Truong Son teams have not been specifically targetted by the enemy although their movement to 1968 hamlets has been delayed due to better defensive position being located in their old locations.

III Corps

10. Binh Long reported that during the night of 2 - 3 February during the VC attack on Phu Loc village that 2 RDC were killed and 2 wounded.

11. Hau Nghia reported that on 1 February RDC Team #2 had heavy VC contact along Rt. #1.

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12. Long Khanh reported that, as of 4 February, the PRU was located along Highway 1 but was unable to return to Xuan Loc because of the security situation. The Census Grievance Chief and Assistant Chief were unable to return from a currently insecure district where they spent the Tet holidays. The RD program situation was unclear at this time. Some of the hamlets where the RDC were located were reported in enemy hands, but other reports stated that the RDC had held off the VC. On 31 January a RDC Team reported killing 2 VC. By 8 February, Long Khanh reported that the GVN pacification program was operative.

IV Corps

13. An Xuyen. Static Census Grievance Cadre were reporting, as of 8 February, on attitudes and reactions of the populace, VC movements and VC propaganda activities.

14. Bac Lieu reported 8 February that 1 RDC Team had been fired on twice but no casualties were reported. On 11 February, 30 PRU engaged the VC northeast of Bac Lieu city. The CORDS compound in the city had been attacked and was on fire as of 11 February.

15. Kien Giang reported 11 February that the CORDS compound had been destroyed in Rach Gia.

16. Kien Phong reported 11 February that all RDC Teams had been pulled back to either Cao Lanh or other district towns.

17. Vinh Long, in reviewing the VC attack of 31 January, reported that the RDC house was hit by B-40 rockets and sprayed with automatic weapons fire. The house was never physically assaulted although it was frequently hit by harassing fire. The PRU assisted ARVN during the fighting, suffered 10 KIA, and 16 WIA when their compound came under helicopter rocket fire on 2 occasions and was hit by artillery on another occasion. The PRU compound was completely destroyed. On 12 February Vinh Long reported that the Static Census Grievance program was back in operation reporting on VC forces used in the attack on the city, people's complaints against the VC, ARVN and the U.S.

3.5(c)

JOHN D. JACOBS
Vietnamese Affairs Staff

cc: [illegible]

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